

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05175 081013 Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 002656

O 080955 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1985

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5175

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR LE

SUBJ: CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR EVACUATION

1. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT THINK NOR DOES STAFF THAT SITUATION HAS REACHED
POINT WHERE WE SHOULD EVACUATE, WE ARE MAKING
ALL NECESSARY PREPARATIONS SO WE CAN MOVE FAST IF SUCH
EVENTUATES. ON MAY 5 WE WERE ABLE TO SEND A SIGNIFICANT
PORTION OF OUR FILES TO SAFEHAVEN ATHENS. TODAY, MAY 8
WE ARE DESTROYING FILES THAT CAN BE SPARED AND ARE CONTINUING

PROCESS PREPARING OTHER FILES FOR SAFEHAVEN WHEN AIRPORT
OPENS. IF AIRPORT REMAINS CLOSED WE SHALL START DESTROYING
FILES DESTINED FOR SAFEHAVEN AS WELL. WE ARE ALSO URGENTLY
REVIEWING EMBASSY SECTIONS (FOR EXAMPLE, REGIONAL OPERATIONS
OF VARIOUS AGENCIES) WHICH COULD BE RELOCATED ELSEWHERE AND
NONESSENTIAL STAFF WHO COULD BE TRANSFERRED OUT OF
AREA. WHEN WE HAVE PERIOD OF CALM WE MAY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
WITH RESPECT TO BOTH CATEGORIES. IN ALL OUR
CONSIDERATIONS WE ARE WEIGHING VERY CAREFULLY THE SECURITY
INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH THE SERIOUS
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS HERE OF ANY MOVES WHICH WE MIGHT
MAKE EITHER WITH RESPECT TO THE REDUCTION OF STAFF OR EVACUATION.

2. GIVEN THE TYPE OF SITUATION WE FACE WHERE AIRPORT AND
ACCESS ROUTES COULD BE CLOSED OR UNSAFE, WE BELIEVE MOST
PROBABLE AND SAFEST EVACUATION ROUTE BY SEA VIA US NAVY.
HOWEVER, SHOULD AIRPORT BE OPEN AND ACCESS ROUTE SECURE
SECRET

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THAT WOULD BE MORE NORMAL MEANS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES DEPT
MIGHT WISH CONSIDER MAKING PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS ON CONFIDENTIAL
BASIS WITH POSSIBLE CHARTER COMPANIES AS A CONTINGENCY
MEASURE. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE NECESSITY OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF
ANY SUCH APPROACHES AND OF SUCH AIRLINES NOT CONTACTING AT THIS
JUNCTURE THEIR BEIRUT OFFICES. WE DO NOT INTEND MAKE ANY
SOUNDINGS HERE EVEN ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS AS THE NEWS WOULD
SPREAD OVER BEIRUT AND WE REALIZE WE MUST IN ANY EVENT
CONSULT DEPT FIRST.
HOUGHTON

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

SECRET

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30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
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